



**Environmental Quality Board**

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## **MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

**In the Matter of Faribault Energy  
Park, LLC's application for a route  
permit for a high voltage transmission  
line.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
SCOPING DECISION  
Docket #04-79-TR-FEP HVTL**

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The above-entitled matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared on the proposed Faribault Energy Park (FEP) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) project.

This HVTL project is associated with FEP's proposed large electric power generating plant (LEPGP) currently undergoing review by the EQB. The HVTL would connect the LEPGP on a site proposed by FEP to Xcel Energy's existing Lake Marion – West Faribault 115 kilovolt line.

The EQB held a public meeting on March 22, 2004, to discuss the project with the public and to solicit input into the scope of the EA to be prepared. The public was given until April 2, 2004, to submit written comments regarding the scope of the EA. Having reviewed the comments submitted and consulted with EQB staff, I hereby make the following Scoping Order. The EA shall address the following issues.

### **ALTERNATIVE ROUTES**

In addition to the HVTL route proposed by FEP, the EA shall also address the HVTL route that is associated with FEP's alternative LEPGP site.

### **IMPACTS TO BE EVALUATED**

The Environmental Assessment on the FEP project will address and provide information on the following matters:

#### **A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL**

1. Purpose of the Transmission Line.
2. Project Location and Environmental Setting
3. Engineering and Operation Design

- a. Transmission Line and Structures
- b. Transmission Capacity
- a. Construction Procedures
- b. ROW Maintenance

## **B. IMPACTS AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES**

- 1. Human Settlements
- 2. Noise
- 3. Aesthetics
- 4. Recreation
- 5. Transportation
- 6. Land Use
- 7. Prime Farmland
- 8. Soils and Geology
- 9. Flora
- 10. Fauna
- 11. Archaeological and Historic Features
- 12. Air Quality
- 13. Surface Water
- 14. Wetlands
- 15. Human Health and Safety to include Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- 16. Potential for radio, television and cell phone interference from transmission lines

## **ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EIS**

The EQB will not, as part of this environmental review, consider whether a different size or different type of transmission line should be built. Nor will the EQB consider the no-build option.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS**

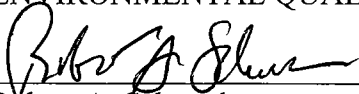
The EA will include a list of permits that will be required for the applicant to construct this project.

## **SCHEDULE**

The EA will be completed by May 1, 2004.

Signed this 7 day of April, 2003

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

  
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Robert A. Schroeder,  
Chair